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OLC 68-0372

17 June 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with DDCI and Executive Director on
OLC Matters

1. Today I met with Admiral Taylor and Colonel White for the weekly discussion of OLC matters.

2. It was agreed that our response to Senator Thurmond's inquiry about possible Agency support to organizations engaged in Negro voter registration required a careful and candid response. Accordingly, the DDCI instructed the DDP memo on this subject be referred to Mr. Cord Meyer who should be asked to go over it thoroughly and provide more precise answers to some of the questions on which the original DDP memo is a little ambiguous. It was also suggested that Mr. Meyer himself might be called on to meet and brief Senator Thurmond personally.

In the same connection, it was agreed that a letter from the Director to Senator Russell (which the Director asked OLC to draft) should be carefully prepared to ensure against anything that appeared evasive or misleading, or which might give rise to further questions.

3. We discussed the Director's instructions that I meet with Senator Pastore and Representative Holifield to seek clarification of the material they would want covered in a briefing of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy by the Director. (George Murphy, of the Joint Committee staff, had indicated that the Joint Committee would want to hear from the Director before adjournment of the present session). It was agreed that an approach to Pastore

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or Hollifield was unnecessary in view of Murphy's subsequent explanation to me that the Joint Committee would want an updating of the items covered in the last briefing, plus some comments on possible Soviet penetration of NATO security. It was also agreed that an approach to Pastore or Hollifield over Murphy's head might serve only to antagonize Murphy.

4. Attention was called to the suggestion of Robert Michaels, House Appropriations Committee staff, that the Agency Subcommittee on Appropriations might want a "substantive" briefing prior to adjournment. It was agreed that Michaels should be told that although the Director's schedule was tight, we would gladly try to arrange such a briefing if Chairman Mahon felt it desirable.

5. I reported on our informal program of regularly briefing key Subcommittee staff members on significant, current developments. Particular attention was called to the persistent pressure of Mr. Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, on two main issues: development of new high performance Soviet aircraft, and the increasing Soviet naval capabilities in the Mediterranean. Since Blandford raised these issues with the admitted purpose of proving shortcomings in our own defense programs, Admiral Taylor suggested he be reminded these questions should be taken up with Defense.

6. It was agreed that I should call Representative Gilbert Gude and explain that, while we normally do not engage in general briefings to outside audiences, we would be willing to respond to his request to brief a group of high school "interns" on certain aspects of the Agency if the briefing could be held in our auditorium or a downtown Agency building, and if we could be assured of no publicity.

7. Concerning legislative matters, I reported on (a) the status of the Ervin bill (S. 1035) and Henderson bill (H. R. 17760) hearings and (b) difficulties in nailing down a hearing on H. R. 13705 (cost-of-living adjustments for retirees) due to the tight calendar of the House

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Armed Services Committee. It was agreed that I would see Representative Philbin, Chairman of Subcommittee No. 1 which will handle this matter, as soon as possible, raising with him the desirability of a phone call from the Director to Chairman Rivers. I pointed out that Russ Blandford was pessimistic about scheduling a meeting in view of the fact that the Committee is apparently "bogged down" in Defense procurement hearings. (I have since learned that Mr. Rivers is in California and Mr. Philbin is in Massachusetts and neither is expected back until late 18 June.)

SIGNED

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